FALSE TEACHING IN LATER TIMES

I Timothy 4:3 They forbid people to marry and order them to abstain from certain foods, which God created to be received with thanksgiving by those who believe and know the truth.

Review – The Source of False Teaching

I Timothy 4:1 The Spirit clearly says that in later times some will abandon the faith and follow deceiving spirits and things taught by demons.

I John 4:1 Dear friends, do not believe every spirit, but test the spirits to see whether they are from God, because many false prophets have gone out into the world.

The Character of False Teachers

I Timothy 4:2 Such teachings come through hypocritical liars, whose consciences have been seared as with a hot iron.

I Timothy 4:1-3a (Message) The Spirit makes it clear that as time goes on, some are going to give up on the faith and chase after demonic illusions put forth by professional liars. These liars have lied so well and for so long that they’ve lost their capacity for truth. They will tell you not to get married.

2 Timothy 3:13 …while evildoers and imposters will go from bad to worse, deceiving and being deceived.

Acts 20:20 “Even from your own number men will arise and distort the truth in order to draw away disciples after them.”

I Timothy 1:19&20a …holding on to faith and a good conscience, which some have rejected and so have suffered shipwreck with regard to the faith. Among them are Hymenaeus and Alexander,

2 Timothy 2:17&18 Their teaching will spread like gangrene. Among them are Hymenaeus and Philetus, who have departed from the truth. They say that the resurrection has already taken place, and they destroy the faith of some.

False teachers disregard their consciences and deliberately sin, opening themselves up to deceiving spirits and things taught by demons. They teach what they do so people will follow them, not Jesus.

They Forbid People to Marry

I Timothy 4:3a They forbid people to marry…

I Timothy 4:3a (Good News Translation) Such people teach that it is wrong to marry and to eat certain foods.

Acts 10:47a “Surely no one can **stand in the way of** their being baptized with water.” (Emphasis added)

Luke 23:2 And they began to accuse him, saying, “We have found this man subverting our nation. He **opposes** payment of taxes to Caesar and claims to be Messiah, a king.” (Emphasis added)

2 Peter 2:16 But he was rebuked for his wrongdoing by a donkey – an animal without speech – who spoke with a human voice and **restrained** the prophet’s madness. (Emphasis added)

Luke 18:16 But Jesus called the children to him and said, “Let the little children come to me, and do not **hinder** them, for the kingdom of God belongs to such as these.” (Emphasis added)

Jude 4 For certain individuals whose condemnation was written about long ago have secretly slipped in among you. They are ungodly people, who pervert the grace of our God into a license for immorality and deny Jesus Christ our only Sovereign and Lord.

Matthew 19:4-6 “Haven’t you read,” he replied, “that at the beginning the Creator ‘made them male and female,’ and said, ‘For this reason a man will leave his father and mother and be united to his wife, and the two will become one flesh.’ So they are no longer two, but one flesh. Therefore what God has joined together, let no one separate.”

I Thessalonians 4:3-6a It is God’s will that you should be sanctified: that you should avoid sexual immorality; that each of you should learn to control your own body in a way that is holy and honorable, not in passionate lust like the pagans, who do not know God; and that in this matter no one should wrong or take advantage of a brother or sister.

The simplest definition of the Greek word translated sexual immorality is any sexual act other than one between a man and a woman who are married to each other.

I Thessalonians 4:6b-8 The Lord will punish all those who commit such sins, as we told you and warned you before. For God did not call us to be impure, but to live a holy life. Therefore, anyone who rejects this instruction does not reject a human but God, the very God who gives you his Holy Spirit.

What the Attack on Marriage Looks Like

Claiming that there is nothing wrong with living together without marriage.

John 4:16-18 He told her, “Go, call your husband and come back.” “I have no husband,” she replied. Jesus said to her, “You are right when you say you have no husband. The fact is, you have had five husbands, and the man you now have is not your husband. What you have just said is quite true.”

Claiming there is nothing wrong with homosexual sex. I Corinthians 6:9-11 (NASB) Or do you not know that the unrighteous shall not inherit the kingdom of God. Do not be deceived, neither fornicators, nor idolaters, nor adulterers, nor effeminate, nor homosexuals, nor thieves, nor the covetous, nor drunkards, nor revilers, nor swindlers shall inherit the kingdom of God. And such were some of you; but you were washed, but you were sanctified, but you were justified in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, and in the Spirit of our God.

Attempting to redefine marriage to include what God forbids.

Making divorce legitimate “for any and every reason.” Matthew 19:3 Some Pharisees came to him to test him. They asked, “Is it lawful for a man to divorce his wife for any and every reason.”

Matthew 19:9 “I tell you that anyone who divorces his wife, except for sexual immorality, and marries another commits adultery.”

There are three legitimate reasons for divorce, immorality, the unbeliever leaves (I Corinthians 7:12-16) and by extension a marriage that is dangerous (Mark 2:23-27). Jesus appears to be talking about divorcing one person to marry another. I Corinthians 7:27&28a (NASB) Are you bound to a wife: Do not seek to be released. Are you released from a wife? Do not seek a wife. But if you should marry, you have not sinned…

How Is Marriage Doing in the United States?

Among all currently married adults in 2016, 76% of men and 77% of women were in their first marriage.

By 2014, over half of both men and women in their first marriage (who married between 1970 and 1984) had at least reached their 25th anniversary.

Data from “Number, Timing and Duration of Marriages and Divorces, The U.S. Census Bureau, 2016

What to Remember

Not listening to your conscience opens you up to believing things taught by demons.

False teachers are hypocritical liars with seared consciences.

False teachers try to hinder people getting biblically married.

Endorsing immorality is often the most obvious sign of a false teacher.